

## Department of the Army, DoD

## § 578.12

the Armed Forces of the United States and of friendly foreign nations.

(b) *Description.* On a 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch bronze octagon, an eagle displayed, standing on a fasces, between two groups of stars of six and seven, above the group of six a spray of leaves. On the reverse is a shield paly of 13 pieces on the chief, the letters "U.S." supported by sprays of laurel and oak, around the upper edge the inscription "Soldier's Medal," and across the face the words "For Valor." The medal is suspended by a rectangular-shaped metal loop with corners rounded from a moired silk ribbon 1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length and 1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches in width, composed of two outside stripes of blue ( $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch), the center containing 13 white and red stripes of equal width (7 white and 6 red).

(Sec. 3750, 70A Stat. 217; 10 U.S.C. 3750)

### § 578.11 Bronze Star Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Bronze Star Medal, established by Executive Order on February 4, 1944, is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States, on or after December 7, 1941, shall have distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. See figure 1.

(1) *Heroism.* Awards may be made for acts of heroism performed in actual ground combat against an armed enemy which are of lesser degree than required for the award of the Silver Star.

(2) *Meritorious achievement and service.* (i) Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit and meritorious service. The required achievement or service, while of lesser degree than that required for the award of the Legion of Merit, must nevertheless have been meritorious and accomplished with distinction.

(ii) Awards may be made, upon letter application to The Adjutant General, to those members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, on or after December 7, 1941, have been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge or Medical Badge for exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy between December 7, 1941 and

September 2, 1945, inclusive, or whose meritorious achievement or exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy during such period has been otherwise confirmed in writing by documents executed prior to July 1, 1947. Documents which have been executed since August 4, 1944 in connection with recommendations for the award of decorations of higher degree than the Bronze Star Medal will not be used to establish a basis for the award of this decoration under the provisions of this paragraph.

(b) *Description.* A bronze star 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in circumscribing diameter. In the center thereof is a  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch diameter raised bronze star, the center line of all rays of both stars coinciding. The reverse has the inscription "Heroic or Meritorious Achievement." The star is suspended by a rectangular-shaped loop with corners rounded from a moired silk ribbon 1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length and 1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches in width, composed of stripes of white ( $\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), red ( $\frac{9}{16}$ -inch), white ( $\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), blue ( $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch), white ( $\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), red ( $\frac{9}{16}$ -inch), and white ( $\frac{1}{32}$ -inch). A bronze block letter "V"  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in height with serifs at the top of the members is worn on the suspension and service ribbons of the Bronze Star Medal to denote an award made for heroism (valor). Not more than one "V" device will be worn. When one or more oak-leaf clusters appear on the same ribbon the "V" device is worn on the wearer's right.

(E.O. 9419, Feb. 4, 1944, 9 FR 1495)

### § 578.12 Air Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Air Medal, established by Executive Order on May 11, 1942, is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States, has distinguished himself or herself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight (Fig. 1). Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or sustained operational activities against an armed enemy. The required achievement, while of lesser degree than that required for the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, must nevertheless have been accomplished with distinction above and beyond that normally expected.

(b) *Description.* A bronze compass rose  $1\frac{1}{16}$ -inches circumscribing diameter suspended by the pointer and charged with an eagle volant carrying two lightning flashes in its talons. The points of the compass rose on the reverse are modeled with the central portion plain. The medal is suspended from a moired silk ribbon  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length and  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches in width, composed of a band of ultramarine blue ( $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch), a band of golden orange ( $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch), a band of ultramarine blue ( $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch), a band of golden orange ( $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch), and a band of ultramarine blue ( $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch), by a ring engaging the pointer.

(E.O. 9158, May 11, 1942, 7 FR 3541, as amended by E.O. 9242A, Sept. 11, 1942, 7 FR 7874)

#### § 578.12a Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Department of Defense Directive 1348.14, 25 June 1963, established the Joint Service Commendation Medal. This decoration is awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense and shall take precedence with, but before, the Army Commendation Medal when both are worn on the uniform. The decoration is not awarded to any individual for a period of service for which another meritorious decoration has been awarded.

(a) *Eligibility.* Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguishes himself by meritorious achievement or service while serving in any assignment specified in paragraph (b) of this section after 1 January 1963 is eligible for this award. The required achievement or service, while of lesser degree than that required for award of the Legion of Merit, must nevertheless have been accomplished with distinction.

(b) *Joint activities.* Military personnel assigned to the following joint activities are eligible for the award:

- (1) Office of the Secretary of Defense.
- (2) Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- (3) Defense Supply Agency.
- (4) National Security Agency.
- (5) Other Department of Defense agencies or joint activities reporting through the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- (6) Headquarters, unified and special commands.

(7) Headquarters of joint task forces, joint commands or control groups, reporting through the Joint Chiefs of Staff, unified, specified or subordinate joint commanders, to include service components assigned to a joint command for exercise purposes (e.g., STRIKE Command).

(8) Other joint activities reporting to commanders of unified or specified commands (e.g., Military Assistance Advisory Groups or Joint Missions).

[29 FR 527, Jan. 22, 1964]

#### § 578.13 Army Commendation Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Army Commendation Medal established by the Secretary of War on December 18, 1945, and amended in Department of the Army General Orders 10, 1960, is awarded to any members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Army after December 6, 1941, shall have distinguished himself by meritorious achievement or meritorious service. (See figure 1.)

(1) The required meritorious achievement or meritorious service while of lesser degree than that required for the award of the Legion of Merit must nevertheless have been accomplished with distinction and must have been of the same degree as required for the award of the Bronze Star Medal or Air Medal. An award may be made when the operational requirements for the award of the Bronze Star Medal have not been fully met.

(2) An award may be made for acts of outstanding courage which do not meet the requirements for an award of the Soldier's Medal.

(3) An award for meritorious service will not normally be made for a period of service of less than 6 months' duration.

(4) The Army Commendation Medal will not be awarded to general officers.

(5) It is particularly desirable that emphasis be placed on the award of this decoration to outstanding company grade officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel whose achievements and services meet the prescribed standards.

(6) Awards may be made upon letter application to The Adjutant General to any individual commended after December 6, 1941, and prior to January 1,